

Original: English - Spanish  
Translation: FTAA Secretariat

**FTAA – COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL  
SOCIETY**

**OPEN INVITATION TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN FTAA PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**

1. At their Sixth Meeting held in Buenos Aires, on April 7, 2001, the Ministers Responsible for Trade of the Hemisphere reaffirmed the commitment to the principle of transparency in the FTAA process and recognized the need for increasing participation of the different sectors of civil society.
2. The Ministers underscored the importance of the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society as a mechanism for fulfilling the commitment to transparency and welcomed the written report that presented the range of viewpoints received during the previous stage of negotiations from individuals and organizations from the Hemisphere. The Second Report of the Committee to the Ministers may be found on the FTAA web site (<http://www.ftaa-alca.org>).
3. The Committee acknowledges the receipt of the contributions submitted in response to its Second Open Invitation to Civil Society and thanks all those organizations and persons who took the time and effort to contribute their views. These contributions were forwarded to the corresponding FTAA entities (as listed in the attached Cover Sheet, Annex 1).
4. In view of the Ministerial mandate issued to this Committee to foster a process of increased and sustained participation of the different sectors of civil society, as well as its interest in the continued contribution by these sectors on issues of relevance to the FTAA, and taking into account the availability of the draft FTAA Agreement on the FTAA website (see above), the Committee extends, as of November 1, 2001, an open and permanent invitation to Civil Society for the submission of written contributions.
5. Contributions may be submitted via email, mail, fax, or courier. In the interest of facilitating translation into the working languages, distribution throughout the countries of the hemisphere and analysis by the relevant national negotiators, it is highly recommended that contributions be submitted via email or via electronic format (i.e., a 3.5" diskette containing submission) sent to the corresponding address. Contributions submitted via other means will be given equal consideration and every effort will be made to process the transmission of these documents expeditiously.
6. In order to be considered, each submission must:
  - Identify the submitter(s), specifying name(s) and contact or sender information;
  - Make reference to matters relating to the FTAA process and/or the draft FTAA Agreement;
  - Be in written form, in one of the official FTAA languages (Spanish, English, French, Portuguese);
  - Be accompanied by the cover sheet which is attached to this document (also available on the FTAA web site <http://www.ftaa-alca.org>), with an indication of the FTAA entity(ies) to which the contribution pertains;
  - If the submission is longer than five pages, include an executive summary, no longer than two pages, which summarizes and identifies the issues considered in the document. (The FTAA Secretariat will translate executive summaries and contributions if less than five pages. Contributions longer than five pages will only be available to FTAA Entities in the original language of the submission.);

- Be sent directly to the Chair of the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society, at **one** of the following addresses:

**Via Electronic Mail:**

soc@ftaa-alca.com

**Via Postal Mail:**

c/o Secretaría del Área de Libre Comercio de Las Américas (ALCA)  
Apartado Postal 89-10044  
Zona 9, Ciudad de Panamá  
Republica de Panamá

**Via Private Messenger/Courier Service:**

c/o Secretaria del Área de Libre Comercio de Las Américas (ALCA)  
Hotel Caesar Park Panamá  
Via Israel y Calle 77  
San Francisco  
Ciudad de Panamá  
Republica de Panamá

**Via Facsimile:**

(507) 270-6993

7. Contributions will be welcomed on an ongoing basis. The Committee will acknowledge receipt of the contributions and forward them to the relevant FTAA Entity(ies). Based on the contributions received up to May 1, 2002 the Committee will prepare a report to the Ministers for their meeting in Quito in October 2002.

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**COVER SHEET FOR OPEN INVITATION CONTRIBUTIONS**

Name(s)			
Organization(s)			
Address			
Telephone		Country	
Email		Fax	

Number of Pages		Language	
Contribution covers the following country(ies) or region(s):			

FTAA ENTITIES (Please check the FTAA Entity(ies) addressed in the contribution)

Negotiating Group on Agriculture		Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society	
Negotiating Group on Competition Policy		Joint Government-Private Sector Committee of Experts on Electronic Commerce	
Negotiating Group on Dispute Settlement		Consultative Group on Smaller Economies	
Negotiating Group on Government Procurement		Technical Committee on Institutional Issues (general and institutional aspects of the FTAA Agreement)	
Negotiating Group on Intellectual Property Rights		FTAA Process (check if the contribution is of relevance to all the entities)	
Negotiating Group on Investment			
Negotiating Group on Market Access			
Negotiating Group on Services			
Negotiating Group on Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Rights			

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: (2 pages maximum) must accompany any contribution with more than five pages. (Executive summaries of contributions of more than five pages as well as contributions totaling less than five pages are to be forwarded to FTAA Negotiating Groups and other Entities according to the information provided above.)